

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph that begins on page 16, line 27 with the following:

With reference to FIG. 1, reactor vessel 10 is a Fischer-Tropsch reactor containing a slurry bed (not shown) that comprises solid catalyst, liquid and gas reaction products, and unreacted gas reactants. A portion of the reactor slurry is periodically or continuously removed from reactor ~~reaction~~ 10 via line 8 and directed to degassing unit 18 where gaseous components are removed from the slurry and recirculated to reactor ~~24~~ 10. The degassed slurry is then directed through line 20 to separator apparatus 22. The degassed slurry is directed through slurry inlet 26 into hydrocyclone 24. Within hydrocyclone 24, the slurry is separated into a solid-enriched slurry stream and a solid-depleted slurry stream. The solids-depleted stream comprises liquid reaction products and gases that have been drawn into hydrocyclone through underflow outlet 28. The solids-depleted stream exits hydrocyclone 24 via overflow outlet 30 and is directed into products vessel 32. Within products vessel 32, the solids-depleted slurry stream is allowed to separate into clarified liquid reaction products and gases. Separated liquid reaction products 36 exit the products vessel via outlet 34 and separated gas components exit products vessel 32 via outlet 38.